

ETHIOPIA



Elected in April 2018, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has released political prisoners, apologized for human rights violations, revoked repressive laws, and restarted peace talks with neighboring Eritrea. However, with greater scope for political dissent and an election approaching, there has been an uptick in ethnic violence and increased concerns about future stability.

Country Context

Throughout 2019, Ethiopia has been fraught by ethnic violence, resulting in an unprecedented level of internal displacement and rising political tensions. While some internally displaced persons were able to return to their homes, there is an increasing concern over inter-communal tensions ahead of the May 2020 elections. The government pledged to end encampment policies and support the rights of refugees but has failed to implement meaningful strategies. Refugees are put further at risk of exploitation by the lack of a minimum wage and prohibitions against unionization.

Key Figures



8 million

require emergency assistance



An estimated 7 million

Ethiopians are suffering from acute food insecurity



3.2 million

internally displaced people identified by assessments as of April 2019



Over 600,000

children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition



\$973 million

requested for humanitarian response in 2020

How is the U.S. Involved?

As a result of U.S. assistance, Ethiopians continue to gain access to better healthcare, are provided with economic growth opportunities, and children continue to acquire more quality education. Ethiopia consistently receives one of the highest levels of U.S. investment in sub-Saharan Africa, \$1.1 billion in FY 2017. Ethiopia's large diaspora community, the second-largest in the U.S., also plays an influential role in Ethiopia's progress and politics through community advocacy and remittances.

On-the-Ground Perspective

- The safety of aid workers in Ethiopia is a critical issue. In September 2019, a deliberate attack killed two aid workers, the first in recent times.
- A growing desert locust invasion in Ethiopia has devastated crops and pastures, despite control operations. The locusts threaten to spread further in the country and into neighboring Eritrea, Kenya, and Sudan.

Responses and Actions

- In Ethiopia, between May and October 2019, the SWAN Humanitarian Consortium—comprised of Save the Children, World Vision, Action Against Hunger, and the Norwegian Refugee Council—reached 365,045 individuals through WASH, emergency shelter non-food items, and health interventions.
- Between 2011 and 2018, World Vision provided 2.9 million people with safe drinking water and 2.4 million people with dignified sanitation. 2.45 million people are practicing healthy hygiene behavior.

InterAction has a Horn of Africa working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

